



City of Westminster

NEWS AND NOTES

Volume Four, Issue 2b



LETTER FROM THE MAYOR



Dear Residents,

The Council has reviewed the FY 2013 Budget for the General Fund. The General Fund is funded primarily through property tax assessments. Anyone who received their property tax assessment form realizes that the assessable property tax rate has declined by 15%. That substantial decrease in the general fund revenue is incorporated in the General Fund budget I presented to Council.

The priority capital projects are priority projects funded by the property tax increase in 2009. When the Mayor and Common Council passed that tax increase, we identified the priority projects for a three year period; this is the third year of that three year period. I have recommended to the Common Council that we consider a one cent reduction of the property tax rate in FY2013 and fund the priority capital projects as follows:

Technology Projects	\$62,333
Police Department	90,000
Streets & Sanitation Vehicles	350,000
Street Paving	1,181,799
Storm Water Pond	20,000
Sidewalk Retrofit	50,000
Facilities	325,000
Parks and Recreation	<u>12,000</u>
TOTAL	\$2,091,132

The departmental budgets, reflecting the decrease in fund revenues, are as follows:

Community Support	\$102,679
Facilities	999,251
Finance & Administrative Services	1,638,145
Executive & Legislative Services	1,651,896
Human Resources	299,040
Planning, Zoning & Development	770,346
Public Safety	5,883,433
Public Works	5,776,066
Recreation & Parks	1,093,808
Public Housing Agency	<u>46,600</u>
TOTAL	\$20,170,565

The full general fund budget presentation is available on the City website at www.westminstermd.gov. The water and sewer budgets will be detailed in the next newsletter and at the budget hearing on May 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the John Street Quarters of the Westminster Volunteer Fire Department.

Don't forget the 24th Annual Flower & Jazz Festival coming up on Saturday, May 24th



from 10am-4pm along Main Street in Downtown Westminster.

Parking and admission are FREE!



Sincerely,

Mayor Utz
Mayor Utz

Social Media Sites Come to Downtown Westminster

Downtown Westminster has gone social! Visit www.facebook.com/downtownwestminster. "Like" the page to learn all that is hot and happening downtown! You can also follow Main Street Matters (@mainstreetmatters) on Twitter for real-time updates of offers, specials and the latest news. And each Tuesday, check out Main Street Matters, the weekly blog that appears in Westminster Patch (www.westminsterpatch.com).

Check out this past entry devoted to Spring fashions found in Downtown Westminster!

Blog: Spring into Style on Main Street

Spring has sprung! The weather is mild, and closets all over town are just asking to be turned over to feature your best spring looks. It's a great time to shop for that bright new outfit, and you can accomplish this fun task right here in Westminster. Check out this season's trends and be fashion forward, without ever leaving Downtown!



A Crayon Box of Color

This spring is all about color. Cheerful colors are a welcome departure from winter's devotion to heavy dark shades. Color-happy gals will love the eye popping hues of the season, including coral, lime, turquoise and even mint green. Those wanting the 80s back will also love the return of neon colors, including orange and hot pink.

"It's definitely a colorful season," exclaims Sandy Scott, owner of the Hickory Stick. "We're seeing a mix of these bright colors, sometimes even with yellow. Handbags are showing the same color scheme."

The season's runways were also full of floral prints, which mimic the bright gardens that pop with color. "We're even seeing denim pants with floral patterns," says Scott.

Stripes have also returned as a must-have for spring style. "Stripes are big this spring," adds Patty Keener, owner of Sidetracked. "They are showing up in easy-to-wear pants and skirts."

This spring, feminine dressing is "wear" it is. Ruffles, silky fabrics and floaty styles are still the rage, creating movement in tops and scarves. High-waisted flare pants are big this spring, which are wonderful when paired with a thin belt. Pajama-style tunics and pants are also available in boutiques on Main Street for free-flowing fashion. "This season, comfort is key," says Keener.

Accessorize!

Once you've dressed in today's freshest colors, don't forget to finish your look with complementing shoes, handbags and jewelry. "We're seeing a lot of straw and even cork on shoes," says Scott. She also recommends adding jewelry to bring out colors in an outfit. "This spring, jewelry is showing lots of blues and greens, in wrap-style bracelets and even watches," she adds.

Finish your look with a great purse. Both big totes and small clutches were seen on the runway, so nearly anything goes! Many downtown boutiques carry amazing handbags, from leather and quilted to fabric and fun – and color is big here as well. Each store can provide you with great consultation about the handbag size and style that best meets your carrying and fashion needs.

Fun Fashion Tips

How can an up-and-coming Westminster fashionista create a great look this season? Follow these tips to make you fashion forward:

1. Quality over quantity. Invest in a few well-made pieces that can be mixed and matched with the items already in your closet.
2. Create your signature color. Since bold, solid colors are so prevalent, try to find a color story that best works for you – but don't mix more than two or three together, for fear that you'll look like a walking rainbow.
3. Shop now, while selection is at its greatest. Many boutiques buy just a few of each item, which ensures you won't see your outfit on everyone else in town. It also means that the early bird gets the blouse – so shop soon!
4. Be sure to try on your finds. Be adventurous! Some items look wrong for you on the hanger, but amazing on you!

You can find many of the upcoming season's trends right downtown, where the boutiques have been busy meeting with designers and artists. They're working hard to bring you the best that the season has to offer.

Want to know more about Downtown? Follow us on Twitter: @mainstreetmatters. See you around downtown!

Online Access for Water/Sewer Accounts

Get 24/7 unlimited access to your water/sewer account information by registering online at www.westminstermd.gov. View your bill before it arrives in the mail, see payments made and usage history any time of day or night, weekends and holidays. You can also pay your bill via Visa, MasterCard or Discover credit card through your online account.

Recreation Events: May, June & July

May-June-July 2012

Memberships are now available for the Westminster Municipal Pool, 325 Royer Road! Summer is right around the corner! Memberships start at \$128. Punch cards are just \$50 for 10 visits and are transferrable! Visit www.westminstermd.gov for details!



Mother Son Date Night Wednesday, May 9 6:30-9 p.m. Martin's Westminster

Get your tickets for our one and only Mother Son Date Night for 2012!

\$60 per mother/son couple and additional sons may be added for \$25 each! Sons must be in grades K-8.

Price includes dinner, dancing, prizes, a 5x7 photo, and parting gifts!



Daddy Daughter Date Night Wednesday, May 16 6:30-9 p.m. Martin's Westminster

Get your tickets for the one and only Daddy Daughter Date Night for 2012!

\$60 per Daddy/Daughter couple and additional daughters may be added for \$25 each. Daughters must be in grades K-8.

Price includes dinner, dancing, prizes, a 5x7 photo and parting gifts!

Call 410-848-9161 to order!



21st Annual Flower & Jazz Festival Saturday, May 12, 2012 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Come celebrate mom at this annual Westminster tradition held in historic downtown! Craft, nursery and food vendors will be set up along Main Street for you to select the perfect gift for mom while listening to some wonderful music played by local groups! Call 410-857-9072 for more information! Parking and admission are FREE!!



Flower and Jazz Fun Run/Walk and 5K
Saturday, May 12 10 a.m. Wakefield Valley Community Trail
To sign up for the fun run or 5K races, call 410-751-5501 or for more information, go to our website at www.westminstermd.gov.



Parent's Night Out!
MAY 5, 5-8:30
Start making plans because we've got the child care covered! Kids will enjoy food, games, movies & more! \$15/first child, \$5 each add'l from same family. Call 410-848-9161 to register!

Stingrays Learn-to-Swim Program

Sign ups will be held on 5/22 and 5/29 at the Westminster Municipal Pool. For cost & details, go to www.westminstermd.gov under the "pool" tab!

Join the Stingrays! Swim Team!

Sign ups for the swim team will be held on 5/24, 5/31 & 6/2. Go to www.westminstermd.gov for more info!

National Kids to Parks Day! Saturday, May 19, 2012

Sponsored by National Park Trust with Michelle Obama's Let's Move program, this day has been designated at National Day of Play!

Go to www.westminstermd.gov under Recreation and Parks to see what we have planned!



Summer Day Camp! **Tot Camp!**

Begins this June! Check out our camp guide online on our website! Spaces are filling fast for best, most affordable camp in town! Conveniently located just

1/2 mile off Rte. 140!



A Month of Sundays Summer Concerts

Every Sunday in July
6:45 p.m.
Westminster City Park
Admission is free with the donation of a personal care item for Human Services Programs of C.C.
Call HSP 410-857-2999 for details & lineup.

Come "GET WILD" with us! **July is "Recreation and Parks Month!"**

You wouldn't believe all the fun stuff we have planned this July. And to kick it all off,

CAMP OUT IN CITY PARK July 6!
For detailed information call 410-848-9161!
www.westminstermd.gov

Carroll Arts Center Events

"Wonderland!" on stage at the Carroll Arts Center.

More than 40 young actors, singers and dancers will take the stage in early May in a delightful performance of the musical "Wonderland!" *Wonderland!* is an unabashedly silly adaptation of Lewis Carroll's *Through the Looking Glass*. It follows Alice's adventures while trying to become a Queen in a chess game with living pieces. The production is a culmination of a rigorous rehearsal process under the direction of Julie Herber of the Maryland Ensemble Theatre and Tabettha White, the Arts Council's Children's Theatre Coordinator. It features students in grades 3 – 5 and is filled with exuberant music, lively dance numbers and memorable characters.

The performances will be held on Friday, May 4 at 7 pm, Saturday, May 5 at 3 pm & 7 pm and Sunday, May 6 at 3 pm. Tickets are \$10 for Adults and \$7 for CCAC Members, Students & Seniors.

Tuesday, May 22, 7pm: The Carroll County Arts Council is pleased to be a part of Westminster's efforts to celebrate their 145th Memorial Day Parade by hosting a free concert by The United States Navy Band "Sea Chanters". The Sea Chanters chorus is the official chorus of the United States Navy and the ensemble performs a variety of music ranging from classical choral music to traditional sea chanteys to Broadway musicals!

Free tickets will be available to current Arts Council members beginning April 1. There will be a limit of 4 tickets per person and they can be obtained by visiting the Carroll Arts Center box office, or by sending a self addressed stamped envelope to the Carroll Arts Center at 91 West Main Street, Westminster MD 21157. Remaining tickets will be made available to the general public on May 1, 2012.

Friday, May 25, 1pm and 7pm: To celebrate Memorial Day, FLICC will present the film "Patton" 1970; Rated PG-13; 172 mins. The epic, multi-Oscar Award winning film tells the tale of General George S. Patton, famous tank commander of World War II. Admission is FREE and seating is on a first come-first served basis.

Please check our website for the most current and up-to-date schedule of events!

Summer Camps Announced

The Carroll Arts Center has a long tradition of educating, enlightening and entertaining hundreds of children each summer during its popular summer camps. Arts Council Members may register as of March 1 and registration opens to the general public on April 1. On-line registration is also available.

Art Adventures

Ages 8-12
June 25-29

Fun Company Theatre Camp

Ages 8-12
July 23-August 3

Creative Kids Camp

Ages 5-8
July 9-13 or July 16-20

Circus Stars Camp

August 13-24

All camps are held at the Carroll Arts Center in downtown Westminster. Campers attending full-day camps will need to bring a non-perishable lunch with them. Tuition assistance is available through the Tom Holder Memorial Arts Scholarship Fund. Registration information is available by calling 410/848-7272 or visiting www.CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org.



Gallery Exhibit

"Fiber Fantasies" will fill the walls of the Tevis Gallery from April 24 through June 1. It presents the art of landscape created from fiber.

Prior to the 1970's, quilting, needlepoint, tapestry, embroidery and other aspects of the fiber arts were not deemed worthy of recognition in the world of art. Since that time, fiber arts have come into their own with both women and men working in everything from traditional, historic pattern quilts and tapestries to new forms of mixed media fiber including hand dyeing fabrics, photo transfer, open needle sewing machine embroidery and more. These works of art are constructed in very much the same way as a sculpture or painting would be created. Preliminary sketches, selection of materials threads and fibers then the actual construction of the work takes hours if not days or months.

Participating artists include: Elaine Brandes, Pikesville, MD; Karen Brown, New Windsor, MD; Judi Froehlinger-Schlichter, Manchester, MD; Deb Slechta, Millers, MD; and more

The public is invited to an opening reception to meet the artists on Tuesday, April 24 from 5:30-7:30 PM. Gallery hours are 10 am-4 pm Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday and 10am-8pm on Tuesday and Thursday. **Admission is free.**

Free Family Movies Return

Free Family Movies return this summer to the Carroll Arts Center! Visit us Tuesdays at 7pm to enjoy these blockbuster films on the big screen. Admission to each movie is FREE, and no tickets are required. Seating on a first come, first served basis. Doors open at 6:30pm.

Schedule is as follows:

June 19: The Adventures of Tintin
2011, PG, 107 mins

June 26: Rango
2011, PG, 107 mins

July 3: Puss in Boots
2011, PG, 90 mins

July 10: Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs
2009, PG, 90 mins

July 17: Nanny McPhee
2005, PG, 97 mins

July 24: Coraline
2009, PG 100 mins

July 31: Big Miracle
2012, PG, 107 mins